

# News Release



U.S. Department of Labor  
Office of Public Affairs  
Washington, D.C.  
Release Number: 07-707-NAT (SF-54)

For Immediate Release  
May 21, 2007  
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## **U.S. Department of Labor increases outreach to energy workers *Traveling Resource Center in Simi Valley to assist atomic weapons workers***

**SIMI VALLEY, Calif.** – The U.S. Department of Labor’s Traveling Resource Center will be in Simi Valley from June 5 through 7. Department representatives will be available to assist individuals interested in filing claims under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA), which provides compensation and medical benefits to employees who became ill as a result of working in the atomic weapons industry.

Stationary resource centers are based in 11 locations nationwide and provide in-person and telephone-based assistance to serve individuals regardless of where they live. The Labor Department’s Traveling Resource Center takes these services on the road to facilitate workers’ convenient access to the EEOICPA claim filing process.

“The Labor Department has undertaken significant outreach activities in an effort to provide detailed information to employees or survivors who may be eligible for benefits,” said Shelby Hallmark, director of the department’s Office of Workers’ Compensation Programs. “Our Traveling Resource Center will help attract maximum attention to the program and increase claimant awareness and understanding of the potential for compensation under the EEOICPA.”

Current and former employees of the Department of Energy (DOE), its contractors and subcontractors, and eligible survivors of employees who worked at Simi Valley area sites such as the Energy Technology Engineering Center, Atomics International, Rocketdyne, and the Canoga Park, DeSoto and Downey facilities are encouraged to apply for benefits at the Traveling Resource Center.

Part B under EEOICPA (effective July 31, 2001) compensates current or former employees of DOE, and certain vendors, contractors and subcontractors of DOE. Covered conditions include radiological cancer, beryllium sensitivity, chronic beryllium disease and chronic silicosis as a result of exposure to radiation, beryllium or silica. An employee who qualifies for benefits under Part B may receive a lump sum payment of up to \$150,000 plus medical expenses. Qualified survivors are also eligible for the lump sum compensation.

Part E under EEOICPA (effective October 28, 2004) compensates employees who worked for DOE contractors or subcontractors. Eligibility requires establishing that exposure to a toxic substance was at least as likely as not a significant factor in causing, contributing to or aggravating an employee’s illness and/or death. Part E grants compensation based on a covered employee’s level of impairment and/or years of qualifying wage loss, and provides medical expenses related to the covered illness if the employee developed the illness because of exposure to toxic substances.

For additional information about the Traveling Resource Center or to schedule an appointment for claim-filing assistance, please call toll-free (866) 606-6302 or visit the Traveling Resource Center in Simi Valley on one of the following dates:

**DATES & TIMES:** June 5, 6 and 7, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. PDT daily

**LOCATION:** Best Western Posada Royale Hotel & Suites  
1775 Madera Road  
Simi Valley, Calif.

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